Disney

minnie 'n me

The Magical Zoo

Includes the song "Talk to the Animals"!

This is the story of
The Magical Zoo
Let's read along together
in our book. You will know
it is time to turn the page
when you hear the chimes
ring like this . . . ***Here we go:***

One night, my best friend Minnie came to my house for a sleep-over. As we got ready for bed, Minnie told me about her trip to the zoo to see the baby animals.

I must have been thinking about the zoo when I fell asleep, because that night I had the strangest dream.

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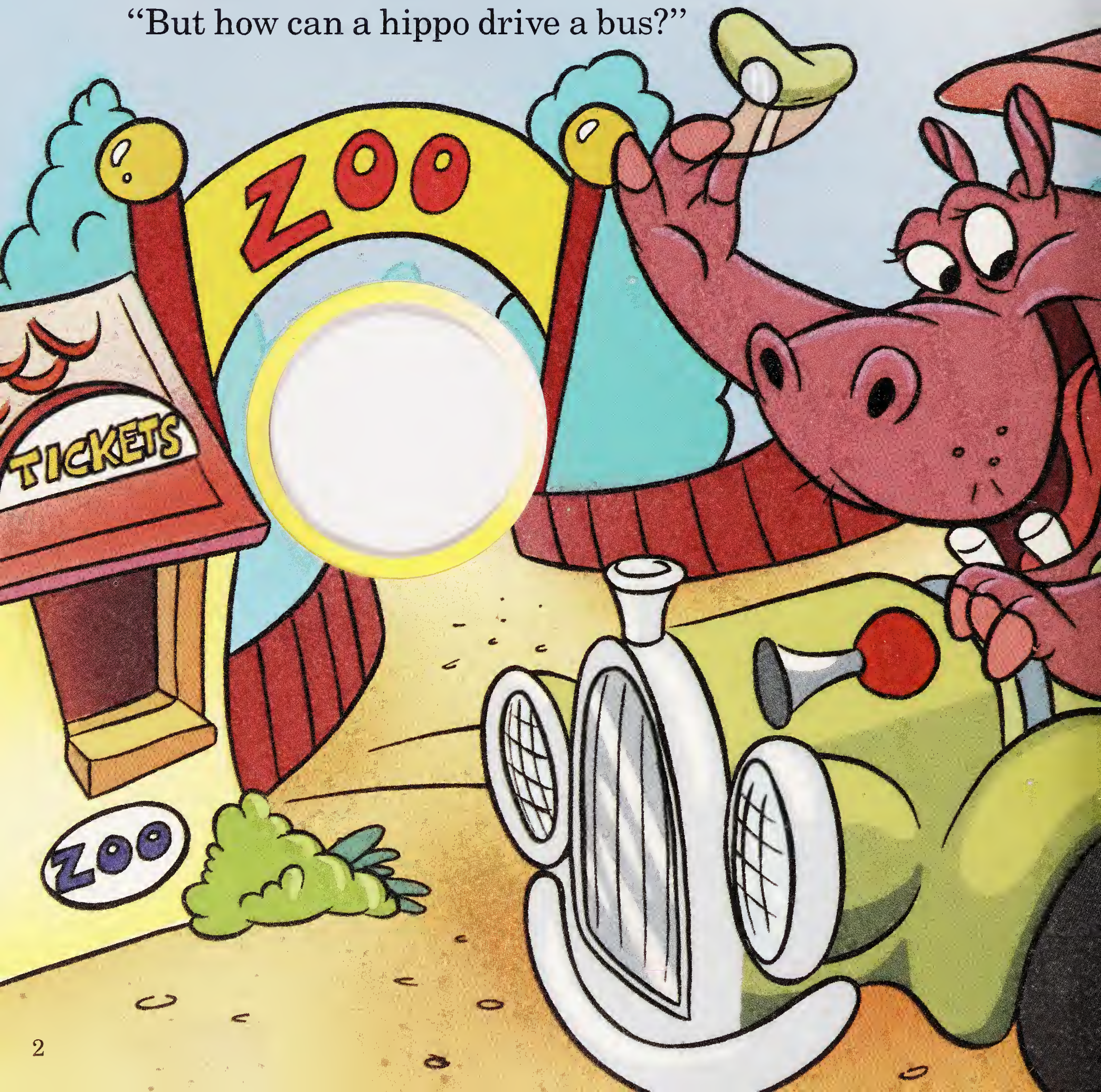
I dreamed that Minnie and I were on a bus. When I turned to the driver to ask where we were going, I got a big surprise.

"You're a hippopotamus!"

"Pleased to meet you. The name's George."

"But how can a hippo drive a bus?"



"This is the zoo bus. What did you expect?"

George explained that he was taking us to a very special zoo, where you don't just watch the animals—you can walk right up and talk to them!

He honked the horn as we pulled up in front of the zoo. Minnie and I scrambled out, and I smiled at him.

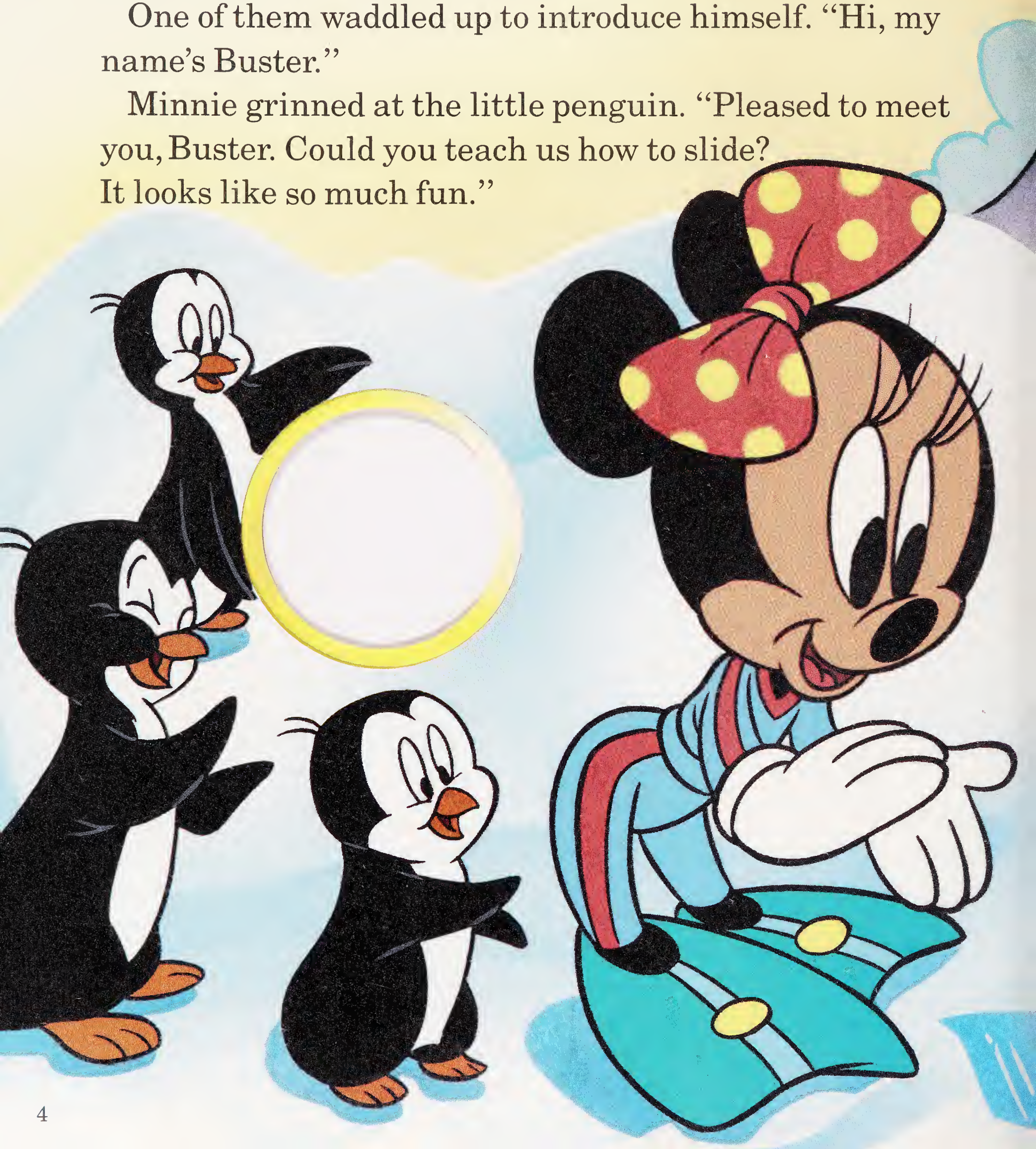
"Thanks, George."

"You're welcome, miss. See you at the end of the day."

Our first stop was the penguin pool. "Look, Minnie, the baby penguins are sliding on the ice!"

One of them waddled up to introduce himself. "Hi, my name's Buster."

Minnie grinned at the little penguin. "Pleased to meet you, Buster. Could you teach us how to slide? It looks like so much fun."

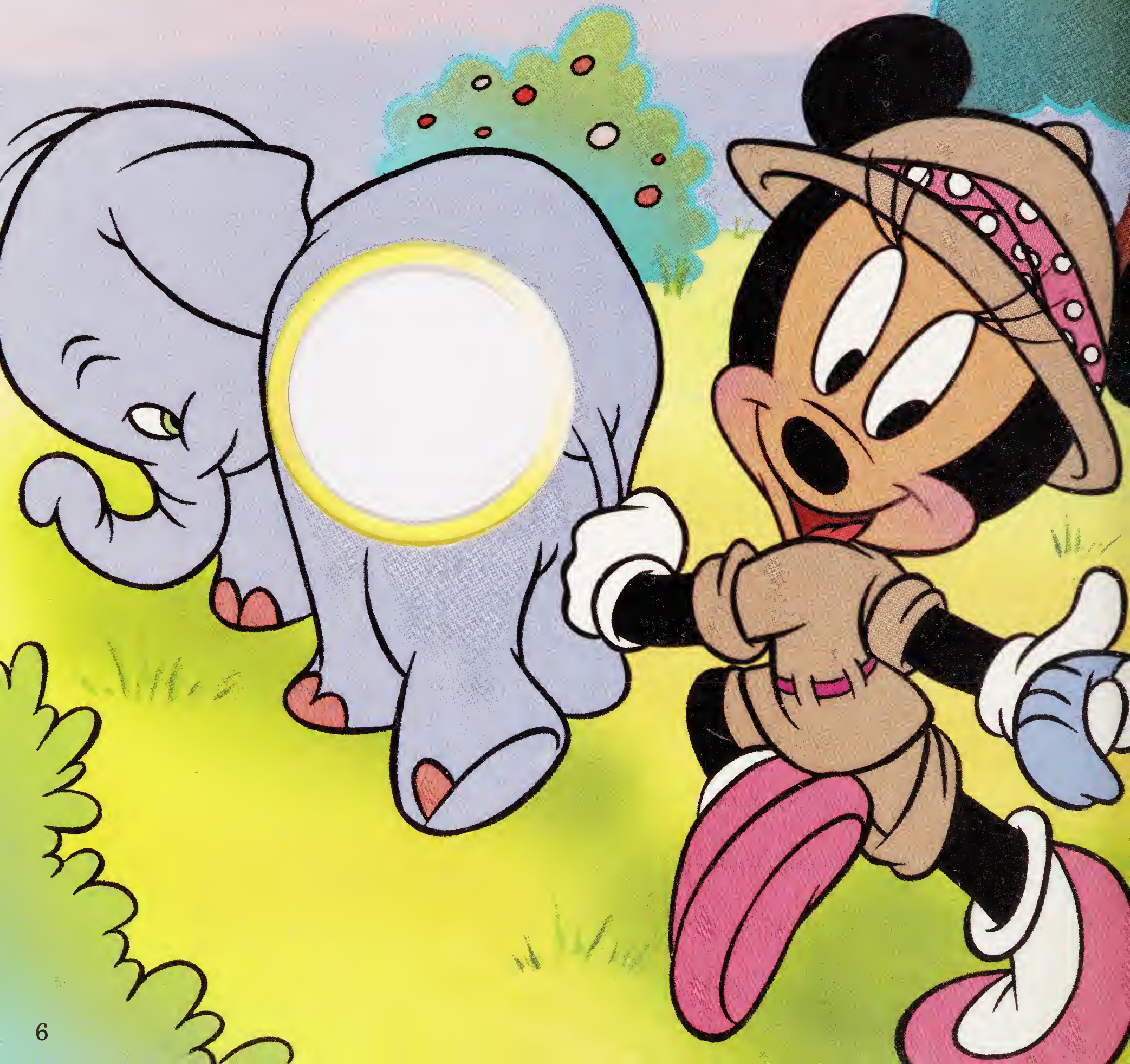


"Sure. Watch this!" He threw himself on the ice and demonstrated his specialty, a spinning belly-flop.

After a little bit of practice, we were doing it, too. My tummy's never been so cold!

As we said good-bye to the penguins, we heard some loud trumpeting noises. "Minnie, those sound like elephant calls. Let's go see if anything's wrong."

When we arrived, we saw that nothing was wrong except for a few empty stomachs. The hungry baby elephants had just been given bunches of straw, which they picked up



in their trunks and curled into their mouths. After they finished eating, the elephants began walking in a circle as if they were going to play a game.

Minnie tapped one on the shoulder. "May we play, too?"

"Sure! Do you know ring-around-the-rosy?"

We each took a trunk in one hand and a tail in the other. Then we skipped around in a big circle, singing while the baby elephants trumpeted along.

Around the corner were some baby kangaroos. I looked at them in amazement. "They sure know how to hop!"

Minnie giggled. "That gives me an idea."

She found a stick and drew a row of boxes in the dirt. Then

she tossed a coin onto the ground and hopped through the boxes to get it. The baby kangaroos, who had gathered around to watch, asked Minnie if they could play.

"Why, sure you can. Just follow us!"

Before long, Minnie and I were playing hopscotch with the baby kangaroos. It was lots of fun—but somehow the kangaroos always won!

Next door, baby monkeys rode on their parents' backs as they swung from vine to vine. One of the babies called out to us. "Come try it. It's fun!"

We worked up our courage and chose a sturdy-looking vine.

Minnie went first. "Look at me go!"

"My turn now, Minnie. Whee!"

The baby monkey smiled as he and a friend watched. "Could we ride on your backs?"

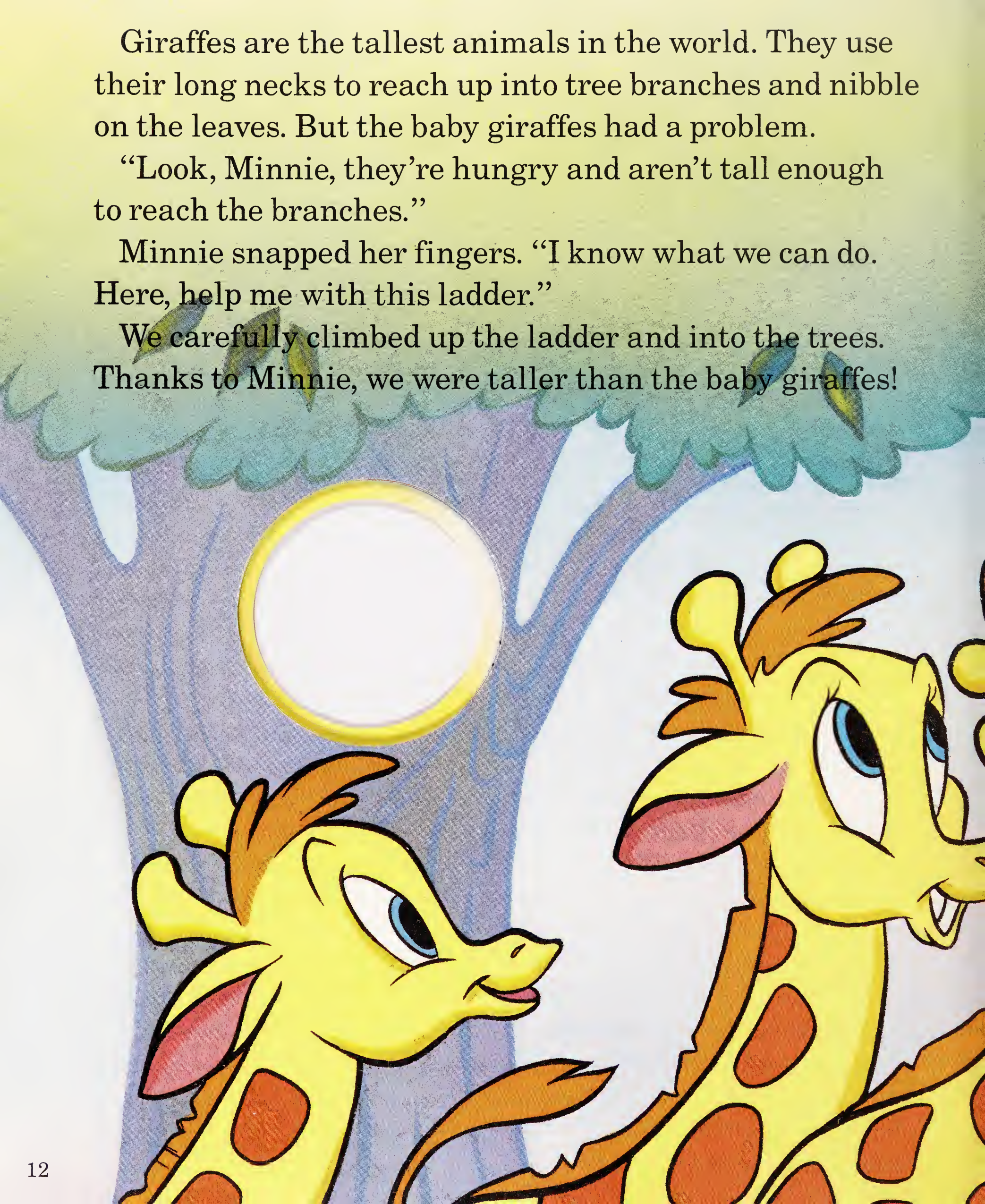
Minnie and I bent down and let them climb on. Then we each grabbed a vine and went swinging off through the trees. Tarzan couldn't have done it any better!

Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world. They use their long necks to reach up into tree branches and nibble on the leaves. But the baby giraffes had a problem.

"Look, Minnie, they're hungry and aren't tall enough to reach the branches."

Minnie snapped her fingers. "I know what we can do. Here, help me with this ladder."

We carefully climbed up the ladder and into the trees. Thanks to Minnie, we were taller than the baby giraffes!



We picked leaves from the branches and dropped them to the ground. As my head brushed the treetops, I thought I knew how a giraffe must feel.

When we went to see the polar bears, there was only one bear in sight. He waved at us when we walked by.

"I've got a new baby sister. Want to see her?"

I called back. "We sure do!"

He led us into the cave where he lived. There in a protected corner sat a tiny white bear cub.

Minnie gazed down at the baby. "She's adorable! May I pet her?"

The brother smiled at her. "You can do more than that. I think she's hungry."

He handed Minnie a bottle, and we took turns feeding the little bear. I'd never felt fur so soft!

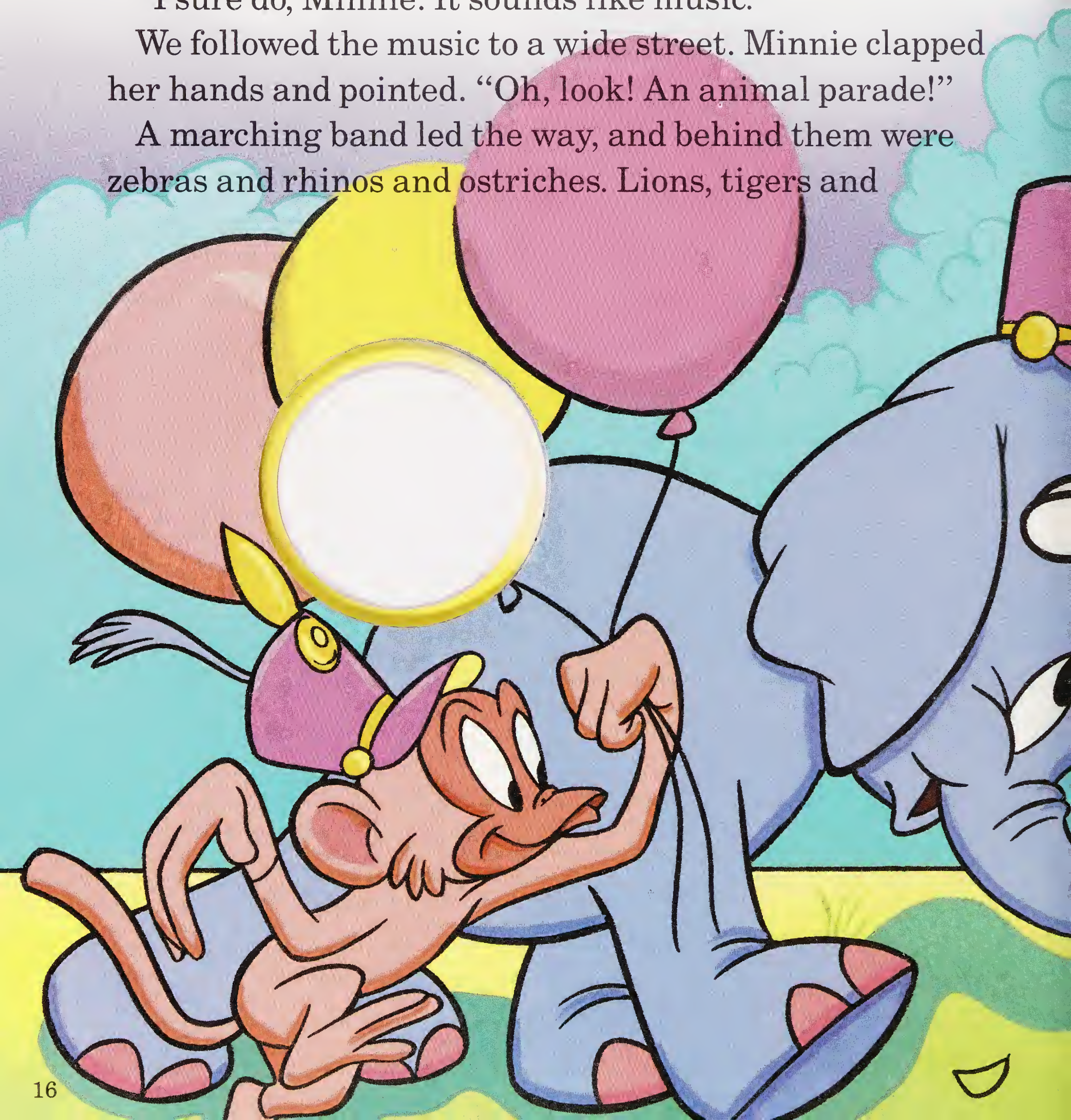
We said good-bye to our polar bear friends and left the cave. As we did, Minnie turned to me.

"Listen. Do you hear that?"

"I sure do, Minnie. It sounds like music."

We followed the music to a wide street. Minnie clapped her hands and pointed. "Oh, look! An animal parade!"

A marching band led the way, and behind them were zebras and rhinos and ostriches. Lions, tigers and



elephants followed behind. "Step right this way," motioned a trainer. "We have room for two more."

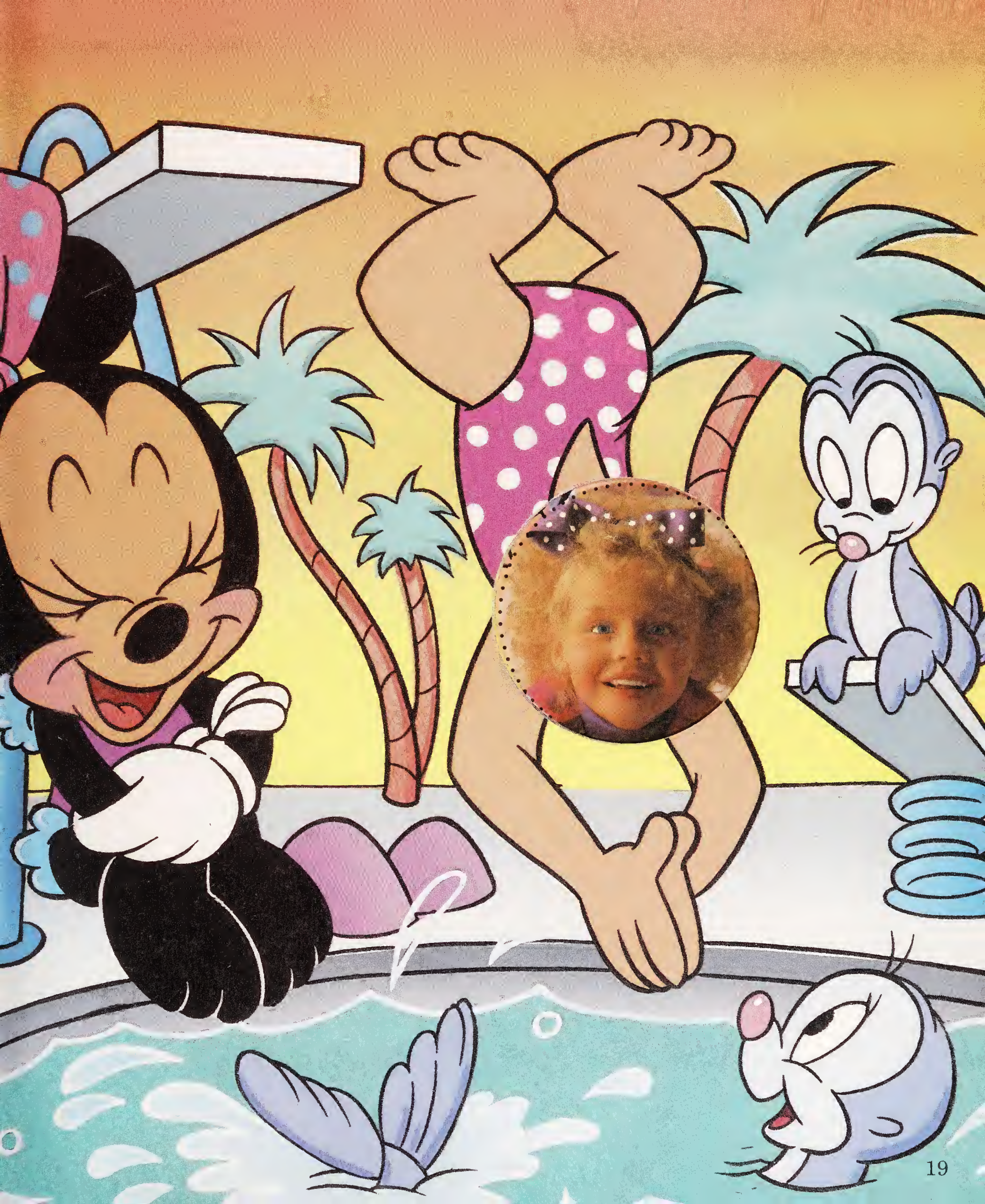
The next thing Minnie and I knew, we were in the parade, riding on the back of a tiger!

Over at the seal lagoon, it was time for diving practice. The slippery little seal pups were taking turns flopping into the pool.

"Minnie, do you think they'd let us dive, too?"

"Let's ask them and see."

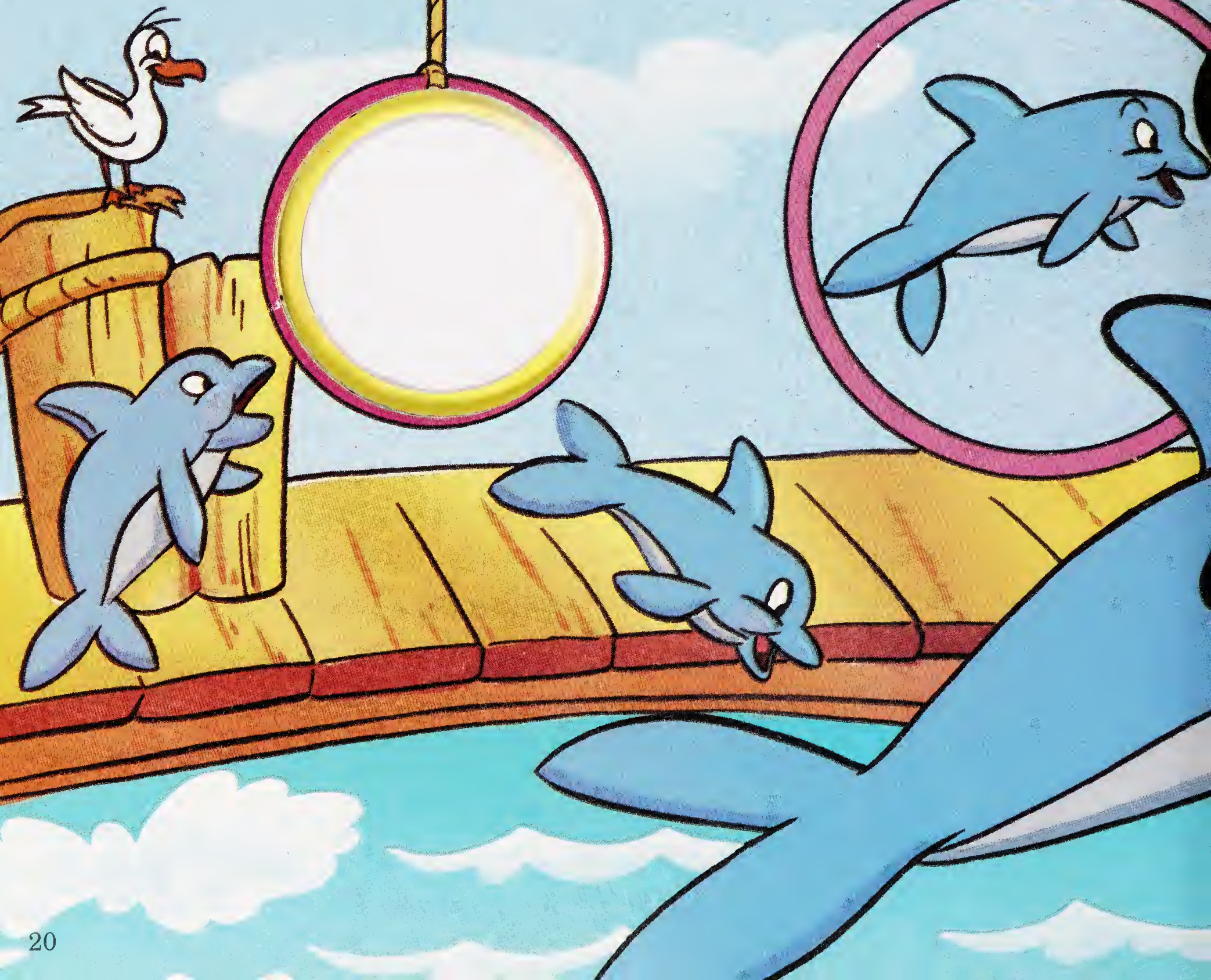
The pups said they'd be happy to let us join in. When we put on our bathing suits and dove into the water, the baby seals used their flippers to give us a big round of applause!



Seeing us in our bathing suits, a mother and father dolphin invited us to join them in the water. As we hopped into the pool, the baby dolphins splashed out a welcome.

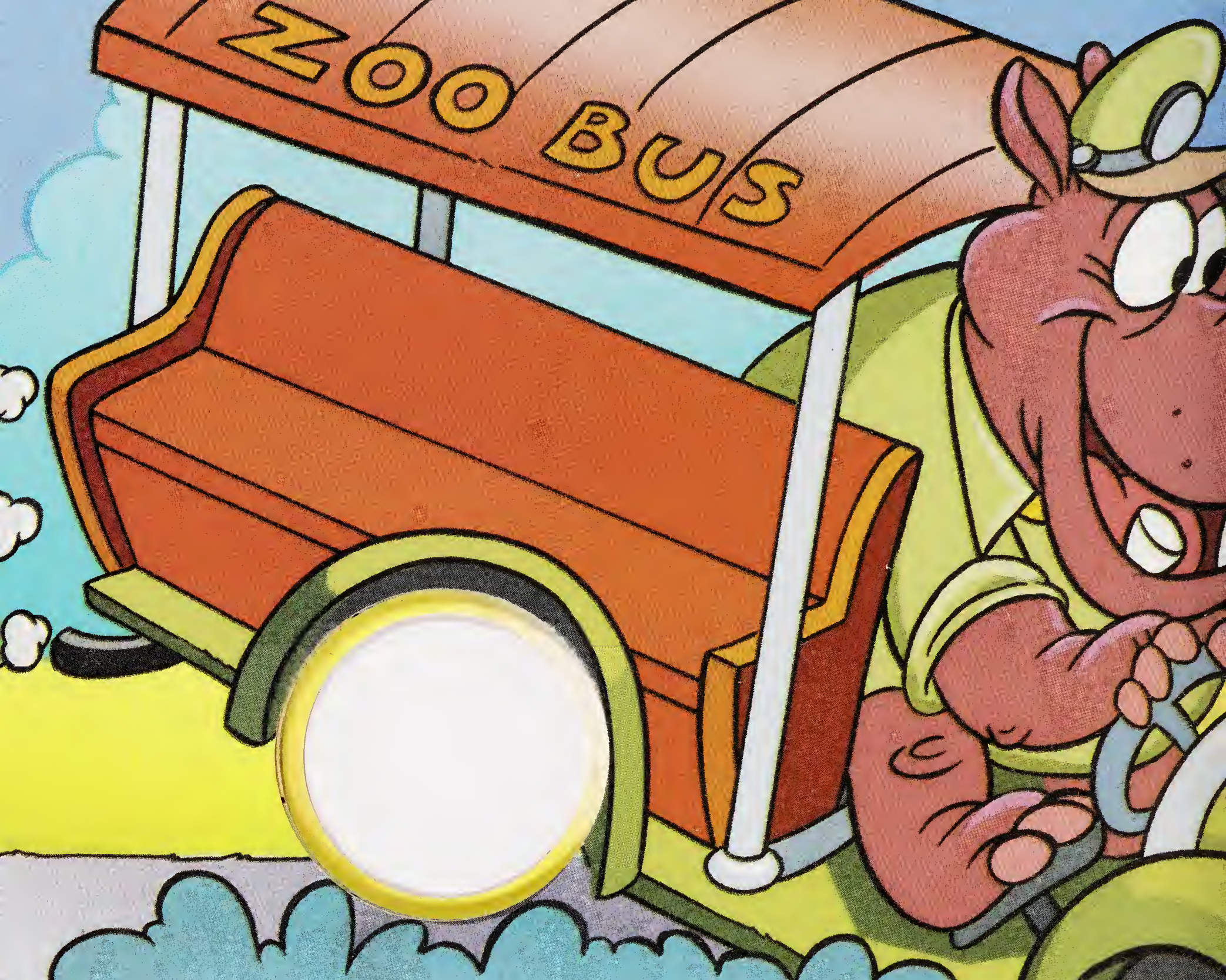
"Look, Minnie, when I make a circle with my arms the baby dolphins jump through it!"

"Oh, that's wonderful! And look! When I stand on the



bottom of the pool, the mother and father swim between my legs."

While I watched, the mother dolphin swam through and Minnie gently sat down on top of her. I climbed onto the father dolphin, and the next thing we knew, Minnie and I were getting a free ride around the pool!

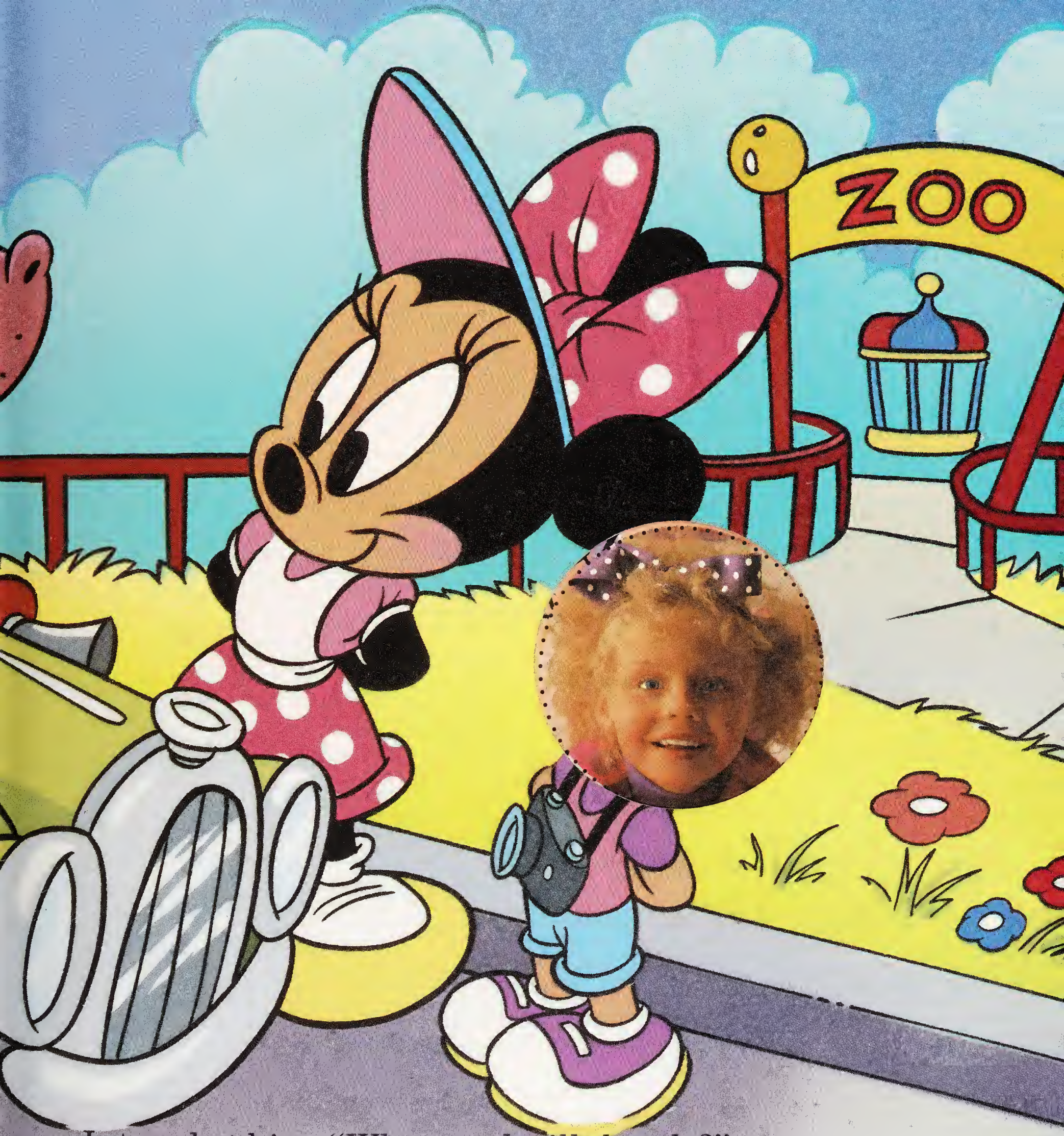


Just as we got dressed, a horn honked and the bus pulled up in front of the zoo. We climbed the steps and found George the hippo sitting behind the wheel. "Well, girls, how was it?"

I gave him a big smile. "Wonderful! Right, Minnie?"

"It sure was. Can we come back another day, George?"

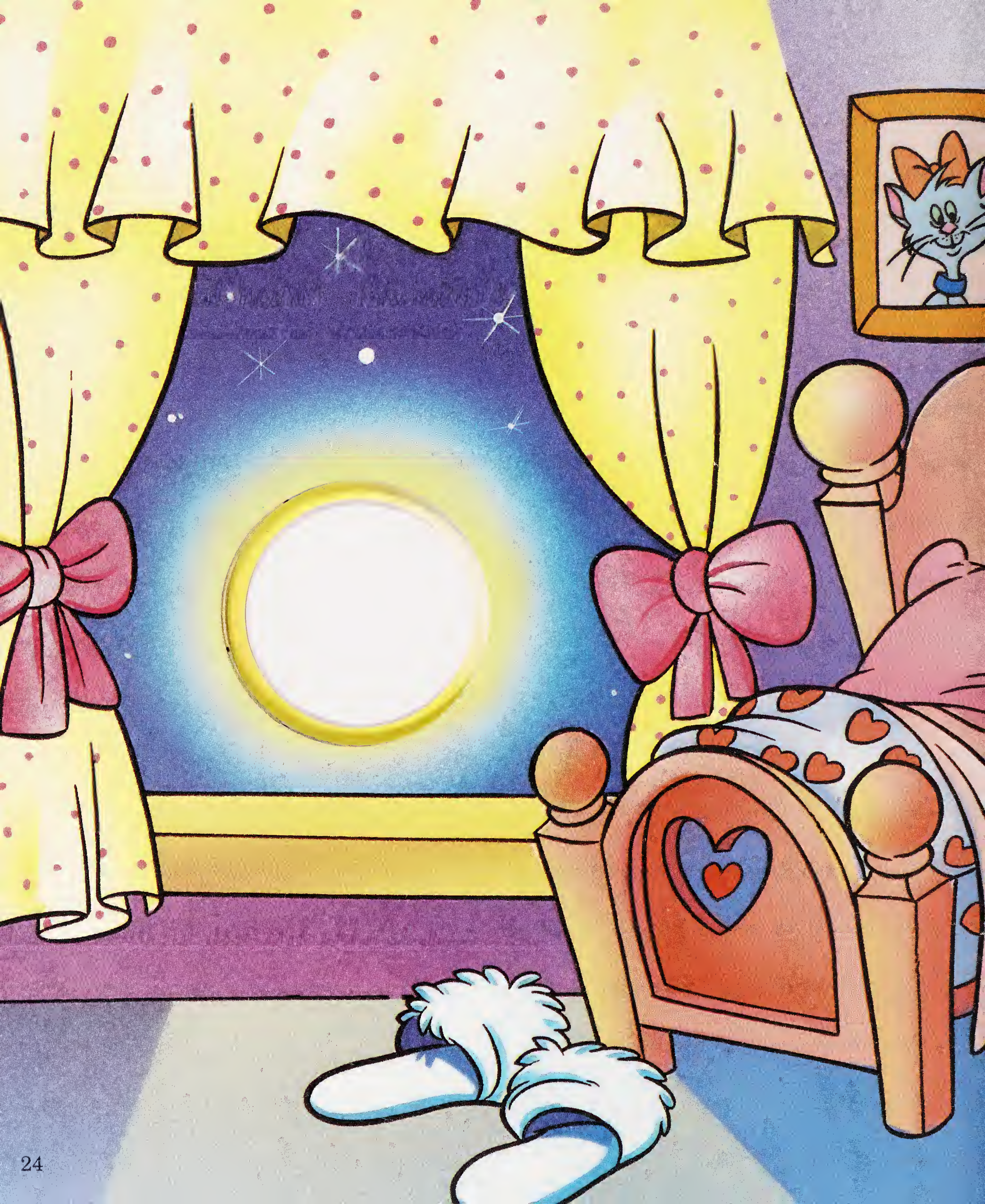
"Any time! Just switch off the lights, then turn over and close your eyes."



I stared at him. "What good will that do?"

"You'll see."

Suddenly the bus started rocking, and George faded away.



I opened my eyes and found Minnie shaking me awake. "Minnie, where's George?"

She gave me a funny look. "George?—Who's that?"

I glanced around my room and realized that George and the zoo and the baby animals had all been a dream. It made me sad for a minute, but then I smiled and did just what George had told me.

I switched off the lights, then turned over and closed my eyes.

Attach a photograph of your happy face in the dotted-line circle above! Your picture puts you in the fun, and makes this your own, very special storybook.

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We said good-bye to our polar bear friends and left the cave. As we did, Minnie turned to me.
"Listen. Do you hear that?"
"I sure do, Minnie. It sounds like music."
Elephants followed behind. "Step right this way," motioned a trainer. "We have room for two more."
The next thing Minnie and I knew, we were in the parade, riding on the back of a tiger!

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